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OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission on Disability

MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 2012

Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Candace Havens
Director
Planning & Development

Community Development
Senior Planner

Members

Rob Caruso, Co-Chair
Girard Plante, Co-Chair
Jane Brown
Lucie Chansky
Jini Fairley
Rosemary Larking
John Lojek
Barbara Lischinsky

Members Present:

Rob Caruso, Co-Chair
Girard Plante, Co-Chair
Jane Brown
Barbara Lischinsky
John Lojek
Lucie Chansky
Jini Fairley
Rosemary Larking

Staff Present:

Nicole Tocci, Inspectional Services

City Hall Employees:

Alice Walkup, Senior Planner, Community Development

Guests:

Matthew Bauer
Maureen McKinnon
Matthew Jefferson
Alderman Hess-Mahan
Angela Pritter
Sandra Lingley

Meeting:

Rob Caruso called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Minutes:

J. Brown made made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2012 meeting and L. Chansky seconded the motion.

2. CDBG Report:

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..., budget & balance of Audible Pedestrian Signals and projects: Commonwealth & Washington, Pearl & Jackson. Newton Community Service Center left funding available. The Newton Cultural ramp has also been cancelled.

B. Lischinsky made an inquiry about the expected finish time of the Commonwealth & Washington project. A. Walkup expects the project to finish by the end of the fall season.

J. Lojek asked why poles at Commonwealth & Washington are being moved as A. Walkup had previously mentioned and why they were placed wrongly in the first place and who is paying for the mistake? A. Walkup explained that the buttons placed on the poles were temporary and now the poles and buttons will be fixed and placed accordingly and that we have the funding for it.

3. HP request @ 21 Curve St.

Matthew Jefferson, Angela Pritter & Alderman Hess-Mahan, present the request of asking for a HP space on behalf of the Baptist Church @ 21 Curve St. Curve St is very narrow and is overloaded with parking especially on Sundays, they say. Clint Schuckel, a former employee of the City of Newton had gone out to the site at a prior time and reported that the HP space currently in front of the Baptist Church was never legalized and that the City did not have a record of the space existing. There is a high demand for handicap parking at this location with 300 members & 18 standing members having a handicap placard. There are 2 spaces located in the back parking lot and 1 in front that is in question.

L. Chanskie asked how many spaces in total there are. Angela Pritter says there are approximately 60 spaces and that there is almost always an activity going on at night.

J. Lojek asked them to clarify on the HP space/spaces they are requesting. The Baptist Church is requesting to make the 1 HP space in front legal and to add another space.

R. Caruso & J. Fairley explained that for every 20 spaces there should be 2 Handicap parking spaces.

J. Lojek made a motion to legalize existing space and to add 1 space in front and made a recommendation to add at least 2 more HP spaces in the back parking lot. L. Chansky seconded the motion and the motion carries.

4. Norumbega Gardens

G. Plante gave an update/report on Norumbega Gardens, apartment complex on Ash St. He and some other concerned residents of the complex requested a meeting with the Housing Authority and presented to them some safety concerns that should be addressed and corrected such as the railings not meeting code, down spouts & gutters. The driveway has also proved to be dangerous, size and traffic flow have caused a problem. They requested that a barrier be put in to stop people from driving up & down through the court yard.

5. Sailing Program for kids with special needs

geous Sailing Center started a sailing program for kids proposal and is asking the COD if they have any recourse al is for the Spring & Fall sailing program for families, cean in the Boston Harbor. The 2nd proposal is for summer

Maureen has 2 National awards in Boston for her way to get back into life proposal.

Maureen showed a slide show of a young boy named Luke who has a disability, the slide showed the boy and his mother and there enjoyment of being on the water. The program offers a way for kids with a disability that can't participate in adaptive sports to have a way to get involved with something interactive and for the families to share common experiences.

Matthew Bauer a guest who came to the meeting in support of the sailing program, has a boy with Autism and even though Newton offers great programs for kids with disabilities such as soccer, baseball etc. Autism like a lot of other disabilities are more cognitive than physical and baseball & soccer is just too hard for them. The sailing program offers a way for families to be together in a non-clinical setting. Autism + Water = Calmness. Matthew believes the program would benefit Newton residences tremendously.

Everett & Framingham have similar programs.

Maureen asked if the COD would be willing to use the money received from parking fines towards the sailing program.

L. Chansky explained that the fines have just recently been raised and the new HP fine regulations have just been implemented and put into effect. At this time the Commission does not have any money.

The Commission made a few suggestions and recommendations:

- Talk to Peter Harrington – Lawyer for the City
- Easter Seals
- Donations from residents
- Write a grant
- Department of Development Services – State Wide
- Cousins Fund

Matthew Bauer asked the Commission if after looking into some of their suggestion if they could come back and re-introduce the subject.

The COD is in agreement that when there is money in the COD's account Maureen can be invited back to discuss options.

6. Report from Mayors meeting

Plante will be discussing Sargent Babcock and the
son Rosenberg will also be attending this last meeting with
discussing the fact that the Commission needs a separate
gifts received. Negotiations are still being made on the

7. Riverside Station

L. Chansky asked if there will be a consultant to talk with about the handicap accessibility at Riverside. R. Caruso said yes, there will be a consultant at the COD's next meeting to answer any question and go over the project. L. Chansky also brought up that the HAWK at Parker & Theodore is not passable. The COD wants to be proactive and make sure the Developers for this project are going to make the traffic signals at Riverside Station ADA compliant.

8. Potential new member

Jake O'Hara is a potential new member and the COD is waiting for him to be-able to attend a meeting.

9. New/Old Business

J. Lojek discussed the decision made by the AAB on the 3 spaces on Hull St at Newton North; the AAB says the city should follow the plans that were approved when they got the variance. The City agreed to put in the spaces & walkway leading to the school.

R. Larking made a comment that there is no electric door opener at the Eastern Bank at 1255 Walnut St also that the width of the door at the outpatient clinic is not wide enough. J. Lojek responded and said he will have one of the inspectors in Inspectional Services go out to the sites in question and report back at the next meeting.

The Commission discussed the miss use of handicap placards and the fine implemented by the state.

10. Meeting adjourned